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PRESENTED BY

Gaylord Bros.
Makers
Syracuse, N. Y.
PAT. JAN. 21, 1908

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Charles E. Thomas

S. 17.21

Major Richard Thorne: Public records frequently fail to mention men who took an active part in the early government. Colonial records were inaccurately kept and poorly preserved. The name of Major Thorne apparently is not mentioned in any of the public, military or colonial records and the following letter from the New York State Librarian will be of interest.

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Weyer The University of the State of New York
James I. Weyer, Jr. New York State Library Manuscripts and History
Director. Albany, N.Y. Section,
Peter Nelson, Head.

25 May 1921.

Mr. Charles L. Thorne,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

The particular records that were used in compiling the supplement of "New York in the Revolution as Colony and State" are not available, because of the destruction of so many of the records in the Capitol fire of 1911.

From other sources we find evidence, however, of the fact that Richard Thorne was a Major and was a delegate to the first Provincial Congress. The printed minutes of this Congress under date of 24 May 1775 show that Captain Richard Thorne was a delegate from Queens county and the 26th of the same month we find the first record of his attendance. In the following year, 13 August 1776, the Minutes of the Provincial Congress show that Major Richard Thorne was appointed field officer of the forces drafted from Kings and Queens counties.

The Calendar of Historical Manuscripts relating to the War of the Revolution, vol.1, page 86, contains his name on a list of the signers of the Articles of Association, 26 May 1775; on page 90 of the same volume are the credentials as delegate to the Provincial Congress, 22 May 1775; on page 258 he is mentioned in a letter from the Committee of Cow Neck, 9 March 1776, and on page 472 of the same volume he appears as being on the bond of John Woolley. In the related papers of Thorne and who had been tortured to extract money from him by a party of Tories.

We find no further reference to him in our records printed or manuscript.

Yours very truly,
Peter Nelson.

PN:EL

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Feb. 12. 1919



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